

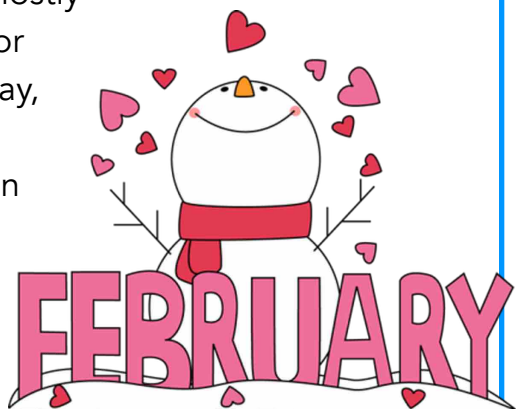


## February

February is mostly recognized for Valentine's Day, flowers, and, depending on where you are, being incredibly cold!

Oddly enough, even though it's just another month, there's a lot of interesting facts behind this month of romance and love!

- The name of February comes from the Latin word "februum," which means purification.
- February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.
- February, March, and November always start on the same day of the week unless it is a leap year.
- February 2 is Groundhog Day—the day we find out whether winter will last six more weeks or call it quits early.
- February 14 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent.



- February 14 is always Valentine's Day. Heads up, lovebirds! Today, the holiday is celebrated with love, flowers, and chocolate.
- Monday, February 29, 2024 is Leap Day!

## Worship Service and Communion

Sunday Worship Service on February 4, 2024 will include the sacrament of Communion. Service held at 9:00 am at Knox United and 10:30 am at St. Paul's. Our Worship Leader is Rev. Kathy Kyle.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting (ACM) will be held on March 10, 2024 following our worship service. Reverend Jordan Cantwell, our Living Skies Pastoral Charge Representative, will lead our worship service and attend our ACM. The meeting will begin with a potluck dinner.

**Mission Statement:** *St. Paul's United is a prairie-rooted, people church, centered on Holy Mystery. We experience the gift of grace – forgiveness, new life, God's unconditional love – as we open our doors and hearts to people of all ages, stages and walks of life. We live as a community of faith carried on the winds of God's Spirit.*

That means the publishing of our annual report. Patty will be asking you to get your report to her so she can begin her work.

This ACM will be significant for we will be presented with a report from the Joint Ecumenical Shared Ministry Committee appointed at the ACM in 2023.

### **Messy Church**

Messy Church is being held Sunday, February 11, 2024 at St. Paul's from 4 – 6pm. Everyone Welcome! Families encouraged!



### **Men's Ecumenical Breakfast**

A time of fellowship and discussion over breakfast will be held at St. Giles's at 8:00 am on Sunday, February 11, 2024. All men are encouraged to attend. These breakfast gatherings are scheduled to happen on the second Sunday of each month.

### **Layer Up!**

We have certainly had a rapid change from unbelievable December weather to bone-chilling January temperatures. You may find the room temperature at St. Paul's a bit cool. To feel comfortable, please wear layers of clothing and let the spirit warm you heart and soul!

### **Have a favourite hymn or a suggestion?**

If you have a favourite hymn that you would like to have sung during worship, please write it down on a suggestion card and place in the suggestion box in the Narthex. The same for any suggestion you may have to make worship more meaningful for you.

### **The Sacraments**

The term "sacrament" describes worship moments in which we draw closer to God through specific words and actions. When we are genuinely open to them, sacraments enable us to experience our faith more deeply, especially spiritually and emotionally. Classically defined by the great theologians of the ages, a sacrament is an "outward sign of inward grace." It is a visible symbol of something we believe in and hold to be



an inner truth and, more than that, an inner spiritual reality.



The United Church of Canada celebrates and

recognizes two sacraments: baptism and communion.

Our communities of faith do not regularly celebrate the sacraments because no licensed minister is available to preside.

The sacraments elder policies and procedures of Living Skies Regional Council are one way of ensuring that each community of faith can celebrate its sacramental life by licensing lay members of the United Church to administer the sacraments within their own community of faith.

We would be grateful to God for the willingness of lay people who come forward to train and offer their faith and leadership administering the sacraments in their community of faith.

### **Birthdays**

February Birthdays – are you celebrating a birthday this month? Please let us know by signing the birthday board in the Narthex.



### **Report — Christmas Hamper Program**

The 2023 Estevan Community Hamper Program provided two-hundred and ninety-seven (297) hampers within our community. The Toy Store provided toys to four-hundred and twenty (420) children.

### **CEBA Loan Repayment**

CORRECTION — I may have been seen to have caused a divorce in January's *The Messenger* when I expressed our gratitude to Barry and Sharon for assisting in repaying our CEBA loan. The corrected couple is Barry and Bonnie Rittaler.

We can also express our gratitude to Graham and Nancy Shirley for their generosity in assisting in the repaying of this loan.

### **Special Music**

If you are able to provide special music for our worship services, please contact the office. Solo, duet, small ensemble — whatever you may be part of would be appreciated.



### **Ministry & Personnel Committee**

We are still seeking someone to serve on this committee. If interested, please contact Chairperson Diane or the church office. Your volunteerism would be greatly appreciated.

### **Frozen Desserts**

Frozen rhubarb and Saskatoon desserts are still available. Contact Patty in the office. Large rhubarb:\$10 each; mini rhubarb & Saskatoon: 3/\$10.

## House Groups

House Group leaders are responsible to get greeters. Greeters are asked:

- to get a key from the office ahead of their Sunday;
- unlock the doors of the church;
- greet the worshippers;
- bring offering forward during the service;
- ensure candles are out and lights turned off;
- lock the doors after service; and
- drop the key in the brown mailbox outside the front door.

February's hosting House group will be the "St. Paul Saints".

Worship Service Leaders (WSL) involved with Rural Connect are assigned by the office from a list of volunteers or from the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The WSL participates in the service where agreed to and lights the Christ Candle.

## Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

The joint St. Paul's International Pastoral Charge leadership will come together at the Leadership Meeting on **February 12, 2024** for any further discussion around Remit 1 and will vote. The date has been changed from February 14, 2024 to accommodate Ash Wednesday services and Valentine's Day.

## Leadership within St. Paul's for 2023:

### Leadership Team

Diane Wrubleski - Chairperson

Lawrence Burnard

Cheryl Deren

Jordan Cantwell - Regional Rep

Gail Schlamp

Greg Suchan

Wendy Suchan

\*Astrid Friesen - Recording Steward

\*Don Kindopp - Treasurer

\* — non-voting member

### Ministry & Personnel Committee

Emily Gillies

Jim Pratt

\* Reserved for you

### Trustees

Dennis Bode

Paul Deren

Diane Wrubleski

### Dr. A.E. Elliot Education Fund Rep

Diane Wrubleski

### Living Skies Regional Rep

Don Kindopp

### Ecumenical Shared Ministry Committee

Cheryl Deren

Sandi Klatt

Jim Pratt

## Upcoming Events

- *February 4, 2024* — **Worship Service and Communion** — 9:00 am at Knox

and 10:30 am at St. Paul's. Worship Leader is Rev. Kathy Kyle.

- *February 11, 2024* — **Ecumenical Men's Breakfast** @ 8:00am. Hosted at St.Giles.
- *February 11, 2024* — **Rural Connect Worship Service** @10:30 am.
- *February 11, 2024* — **Messy Church** at St. Paul's @4-6 pm. Everyone welcome! Families encouraged!
- *February 12, 2024* — **Leadership Team Virtual Meeting** @7:00 pm. All are welcome! Contact Don Kindopp (306-461-6723) for the link to the meeting. (*Note change of date*).
- *February 14, 2024* — **Ash Wednesday**.
- *February 18, 2024* — **Rural Connect Worship Service** @10:30 am.
- *February 25, 2024* — **Rural Connect Worship Service** @10:30 am.
- *March 3, 2024* — **Worship Service** — 9:00 am at Knox and 10:30 am at St. Paul's. Worship Leader is Emily Gillies.
- *March 10, 2024* – **Worship Service** at 10:30 am followed at 11:30 am by a **pot-luck lunch** and our **Annual Congregational Meeting**. Worship service will be led by Reverend Jordan Cantwell, our Living Skies Regional Council representative.

